

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Honeywell International (Formerly: Petrowax PA, Inc., McKean Plant)

**Farmers Valley, PA
P.O. Box 3367,
Smethport, PA 16749.
EPA ID #: PAD 046761763
Last Updated 6/23/05**

Current Progress at the Site

From 1985 until now several environmental investigations and corrective actions took a place at the 135 acres Honeywell International Farmers Valley plant. In June of 1992 as a result of the Notice of Violation, issued by the PADEP, 2,400 tons of residual waste were removed for off-site disposal.

Soil and fill samples at the plant were analyzed for the Target Analyte List (TAL) metals, cyanide, PADEP short list of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), sulfate, chloride, sodium and pH. The results reported that “no fill or soil samples had exceedances to the provisions of the Land Recycling and Environmental Standards Act (Act 2) Medium-Specific Concentrations (MSCs).” However, seven soil samples exceeded the Act 2 Non-Residential Direct Contact (NRDC) MSC for arsenic and vanadium, and one sample exceeded it for selenium.

Some of groundwater (GW) samples exceeded MSC for analyzed organic compound - benzo(a)pyrene, aluminum, beryllium, antimony, chromium, lead, and nickel. According to the Report of October 2001 Floating Separate Phase Hydrocarbons (FSPH) was detected in the GW samples. The facility operates a FSPH recovery system in the Main Plant Area.

After evaluating the results of the Report the site-specific risk-based concentrations were recommended to be considered for GW and soil remediation. “Under Act 2, the concentrations of site-related constituent would be evaluated at the point where GW leaves the site, in this case Cole Creek.” Cole Creek is used for recreational activities. GW contamination is currently maintained within the facility boundaries. An additional GW and soil investigation in accordance with the provisions of EPA and the PADEP Land Recycling and Environmental Standards Act (Act 2) is necessary to protect human health and the environment.

Site Description

The 135-acre Honeywell facility is located at the intersection of Routes 46 and 446 in Farmers Valley, McKean County, Pennsylvania. Cole Creek bisects the facility into two areas. The Main Plant is located north of Creek and a Former Gasoline Platforming Area to the south of the Cole Creek.

The refinery operations started on the site in 1923. Petowax was originally a petroleum crude oil refinery facility. In 1981 it was converted from a petroleum refinery to a wax processing plant. The facility is no longer manufacturing gasoline, fuel oils, or lubricant. Any materials removed during the deoiling process were sold to a petroleum refinery in 1981. The plant's principal operation is to remove the oil from the wax. The Honeywell International Farmers Valley plant, processes waxy feed stocks into finished waxes. The wax produced at the plant is used in to waterproof cups and paper plates, as well as in the manufacture of automobile tires and candles.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region III with assistance from the PADEP.

Institutional Controls

Institutional controls are not required at this time.

Government Contact

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm

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